Buffalo, Feb. 11, 1864.

My dear Gray:

I thank you for your "Contributions," and am very much pleased with you, so far as I can judge. Successful efforts to bring order out of chaos: And yet ——! It must not — I am somewhat — and, perhaps, not disagreeably surprised.

Think of it! I had pictured Gray, the great Botanical Gray, as, in his scientific investigations, a cold, severe, exact man of Science: and now — O horror! — I find him, in there very "Contributions," writing — in this purely scientific paper — in describing his newest of Cryptus multiceps, — I now shall I write it! — mentioning it as "this most rare & charming little

alpine species!!!!!" I am surprised, delighted, charmed. I do wish that our botanists were all more Audubonish - I am glad to note such an outbreak in our botanist.

But I insist that the C. multiceps - charming though it be - cannot be more charming than hundreds of less regarded things, with which I am familiar. For instance - in a small package - I guess the I sent you lately - what I want to, but dare not call, Aira caespitosa - Whatever it may be it is a rare beauty.

Just now I am troubled about 1000 things or less: But rile soon, I think. Send you another small size packet, including some things you wished. I know how you allow yourself to be over pressed - but appeal to you, without hesitation, believing that turning over the familiar things I send you, resting my brain, must be light recreation rather than labor.

Yours truly yours,

J. W. Chickering.

Prof. Asa Gray.